WHEN MOM OR DAD ASK’S TO BE A “FACEBOOK” FRIEND

Yesenia Angel

**Summary:** This article was about how there are a growing amount of parents on facebook and how their teenage daughter/son react to it. You can accept them, or you can deny them but what is the right thing to do? It reflects on the fact that facebook used to only be for college students and now that it’s open to everyone, how has that changed things. In 2005 it was opened to high school students and then eventually in 2006 they decided to open it up to the general public. This sparked many strikes and many groups like “abolish parents” showed up. Where some people love having their parents as friends others find it very disturbing. Steve Jones, a professor of communication at the University of Illinois at Chicago who has studied digital culture extensively, said there's a difference between the world and your parents. "What they want to keep most private is not something they wish to keep from strangers, it's the things they want to keep from people that know them," he said. "It's 'I don't care what someone who doesn't know me finds out. But I do care about what someone I know intimately [does].”

**Response:**Thankfully I haven’t personally faced the dilemma of whether or not to add my parents on facebook because they are a little more old fashioned and not up on the technology but I can see where people would have a problem with accepting a request from their mom or dad. So much information is up in the air, and it would be awkward to have them see that. I like the comment made by Steve Jones because it goes to show that we do like to perceive ourselves a certain way, and it’s awkward when people who know you so well seeing you act in a certain way that they might not be used too. As much as I enjoy talking to my parents and being honest with them, I’d still feel uneasy about adding them as my friend on facebook for some reason.

**Usefulness:**What I want to know more about is how people find out things about you on facebook and it results in ruining friendships or relationships. I thought this article was super interesting and a good step toward my facebook research. I’m still unsure to what I want to research so exploring different articles is perfectly fine with me. This article provided interesting information and I’m glad I was able to explore it.

Aratani, Lori. "When Mom or Dad Asks To Be a Facebook 'Friend'" *The Washington Post* 9 Mar. 2009: 1-3. Print.